

**State Youth Council-Draft**  
**April 26, 2007**

**Members:**

Wayne Griffin  
Jeff Olinger  
Rickie Bryan  
Cecil Robinson  
Melissa Freigang  
Norman L. Johnson  
Cecil Robinson  
Travis Cook  
Wayne Clausing?  
Parley Jacobs  
Shauna South  
Marty Kelly

**DWS Staff:**

Rod Barlow  
Tami Huntington  
Jane Broadhead  
Lesnie Foster  
Julie Anderson  
Julie Lay  
Ann Barnson  
Bob Gilbert

**Excused:**

Marie Christman

**Guests:**

Kristen Cox, DWS Executive Director

**Not Attending:**

**Notes:** Tricia Mecham

**WELCOME AND OPENING BUSINESS**

Jane welcomed the group and relayed Marie Christman's apologies. Jane recognized Wayne Griffin for his service to the State Youth Council. Wayne retired from DCFS a year ago and will now be moving to a new assignment of a mission for the LDS church.

Kristen Cox, new Executive Director of DWS, joined the meeting and was introduced.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 11, 2007 MINUTES**

After a review of the minutes, Norman L. Johnson moved approval as written. Travis Cook provided a second. Approved unanimously.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER**

Paul Jackson is no longer Chair of the Central Region Youth Council. Parley Jacobs has taken that position and was introduced.

**ACTION ITEM REVIEW**

- o Jane will forward the Internet site for the new WIA regulations to regional program specialists, who in turn would forward them to Regional Youth Council members. **STATUS:** Complete.  
Jane has forwarded information on DOL's site. It's important that members are aware of the law.

- SYC members must decide if we want to create a new mission statement. **STATUS:** The State Youth Council was created in 1999 and reads: “coordinating, disseminating and ensuring quality services to Utah’s Youth.” Some feel that the mission statement is too broad or not strong enough. It is recommended that the July meeting focus on the mission statement. **ACTION:** Jane will see if Ron Vandermyde can return to facilitate this discussion.
- Deliver new member orientation at SYC and RYC meetings by the end of July 2007. Create a State and Regional Youth Council Guide book. **STATUS:** Guide is in draft and will be posted on SYC web page by end of April. Hard copy will not be made available. Jane has taken excerpt from the law and regulations and made them attachments to guide. Also developing a summary or “pocket guide.” Jane again stressed the importance of familiarizing oneself with the law and regulations. **ACTION:** Jane will send notice when it’s available. It had been recommended to do the orientation slideshow for Regional Youth Councils. The only one which hasn’t received training yet is Mountainland, but it is scheduled.
- Bring a youth to each meeting. **STATUS:** It is still not clear how best to approach this. It is impractical in many ways, however, it is also very important to get the voice of youth in decision making about services to youth. Some brainstorming:
  - Eastern Regional Youth Council does work to get youth involved. They recognize successful youth to present and invite local Student Body Officers.
  - There is participation of youth at the council of councils.
  - There has been some success with youth on regional youth councils. Not feasible to get them out of school or work responsibilities.
  - Julie suggested inviting someone who is more in-touch with youth but able to participate (like Pam Russell was).
  - Melissa indicated the decision on youth participation may be easier if/when we decide on mission.
  - There are a lot of elements of service that we’re responsible for. As we’re having difficulty keeping young people engaged in programs, trying to learn from them why.
  - Norman suggested having a youth or two from the immediate area where the meeting is being held. Tami Huntington indicated that they’d tried to get some area youth to participate in today’s meeting, but with work or school responsibilities, it wasn’t feasible.
  - Agenda item for July meeting – figure out a better way to get youth involvement.
  - Some members of the SYC are working with the Youth Vision team, which has applied for a grant – it’s a partnership affiliated with the juvenile justice system with a goal of involving youth. Coordination with this may be a possibility.
  - Julie Lay suggested recruiting out-of-school youth as they have different responsibilities and participation may encourage them as well as allow a different perspective.
  - Bob Gilbert suggested each youth council have a youth panel or focus group of youth served in their region before the July meeting and report back. **DECISION/ACTION:** All Regional Youth Councils will conduct a focus group of youth participants. **ACTION:** Jane will draft a list of common questions to be used in the focus groups and seek input from Regional Program Specialists.
- Jane will send all program specialists a copy of the Job Corps MOU and Robyn’s contact info. **STATUS:** Complete. This facilitates common measures. A year ago, notice regarding Job Corps services and benefits was sent to all youth between 16 and 24 registered with DWS. Melissa indicated that MTC “got flooded” with phone calls. Enrollment levels have changed and increased in in-state youth from about 10% to 30%. CJCC is losing some federal funding, however. They want to continue to recruit in-state youth and are interested in having placement specialists involved with all regional councils. Melissa can provide contact info. Melissa further

indicated that the program is not all residential. CJCC has opened a new program, in which local youth receive all the benefits of being a Job Corps student while living within a 30-mile radius. They are also trying to develop a program with Canyon Heights and Mountain High. There is an article in the newsletter.

- o There was a retreat at CJCC for strategic planning in January. Goals of the last meeting are listed in the SYC newsletter, which is now available.

## **OUTCOME AND BUDGET REPORTS**

DWS is currently in the process of negotiating outcomes with DOL. Negotiations should be complete by end of May. In July of 2006, we moved from 17 outcomes to 3. It is much more manageable to deliver WIA tracking the new measures. A draft report was provided. Due to the differences in the new measures, there may or may not be historical data. Regions not meeting levels would appear in red. Because we have presently have no negotiated levels, it does not reflect failure to meet standards and does not mean that there may be areas where performance is lacking. Jane noted that there are some new measures, which will not appear on the report for some time. We have been looking at 190 youth that fall into the pool for the measure. We have done some interim testing only on a small percentage of those youth. It is critical that youth are tested quarterly on literacy/numeracy to know if they are making gains. **ACTION:** Jane will check reports to determine when youth entered the program, All youth are initially tested as a condition of entering the program. Those that fit the outcome measure pool are out-of-school youth who entered the program after July 1 and who are basic skills deficient. The service is being delivered in a variety of ways: ATCs, local school districts, private tutors, alternative education, etc. The TABE test is being used for the tests, often through adult education. Shauna South recommended having the means of delivery for each area listed and local adult education aware of services being provided by other means so that they can fill gaps, as necessary.

As we don't know what the expectation is from DOL, we can't say for sure how we are doing. We have three quarters of data now, and will continue to watch. Negotiated measures are likely to be near the current state level, so Regions can use that as a benchmark.

Reports provided at the meeting are more current than those received via email. We are currently at 84% for obligations, but are little low on expenditures. We should be at 53% on expenditures at this point. We also need to look at the percentage of the total spent on out-of-school youth. The law says expenditures for out-of-school youth must be at least 30%, but State Youth Council has chosen to set 70% as the target for the year starting July 2006. We may want to return to the 50% level for the new year, which begins July 1, 2007. Decision and vote needed today. YTD, we are expending 63% on out-of-school youth. Reducing the target level will allow more funds to be expended on in-school youth. To get positive outcome on in-school youth, we have to carry them further. Keeping them engaged until they graduate is necessary, but potentially difficult. If we move the expenditure target level back down, it does not limit services to out-of-school youth. It was asked if this means that we are trying to be pro-active in reaching the in-school youth earlier. When we move the target, it mostly relates to different strategies for delivering services. We initially raised the level to 70% because we were expecting the law to be reauthorized and the draft versions in both the house and senate included a higher level, but that may not be realistic based on the current economy. Recruitment of out-of-school youth has always presented difficulties. Just because we lower the requirement doesn't mean that we will change our focus from out-of-school youth. Shauna suggested

taking a three-year average to determine the rate. Jane agreed that might be helpful, however, a vote is needed before the end of the program year. Since the next meeting isn't until July, a determination really must be made today. As long as our goal and actual expenditures are above the 30% DOL requirement, there is no penalty. Melissa Freigang made a motion to adjust the out-of-school expenditure target to 50%. Travis Cook seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

## **REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE**

### **Central**

Parley Jacobs, new Chair of the Central Regional Youth Council provided reports from youth leadership projects in Salt Lake and Tooele. The Salt Lake City project constructed ropes a course at the youth center and has been completed. The Tooele Youth Council proposed painting over a graffiti-covered wall as their project. The City Council rejected the proposal and suggested clean-up of local cemetery. They are now going forward with this project.

### **Eastern**

The Southeast Youth Council leadership project will be held in Price in the next couple of weeks. They are collaborating on a community-wide project working on the Price Peace Garden. This will provide very positive exposure for youth. In Roosevelt, the leadership will be at the local library, and in Vernal they will be putting together outdoor playground equipment at the new homeless shelter.

### **Mountainland**

Although details were not available in Brandon's absence, Julie referred to the newsletter to report on the leadership project. Utah Valley Regional Medical Center was the beneficiary. The youth solicited donations, and made quilts for the NICU.

### **North**

The North leadership project is the renovation of the Ogden City park, downtown. This will take place on May 12, and involve 150 youth. They will be planting trees, doing cleanup, fountain repair and placing a marker. At the last youth council meeting, they addressed recruiting for Job Corps and FTT. They have assigned a marketing sub-committee to visit schools, etc. and are seeking support from DWS leadership by way of a letter of introduction. Idea is that all the various agencies are coming together at youth councils and working together to serve youth, they are not competing. The MOU was a good first step. Still have educators seeking MOU locally. Jane suggested that could be done under the umbrella of local partnership agreements. Parley feels that in Granite School District, they may have found a way to work through FERPA issues to allow data sharing on exempt students. DWS will have a packet for individuals in district offices. Students will be informed that they will be contacted by alternate agencies. **ACTION:** Parley will forward a copy of the language in the release to Jane (via Rod), to disseminate to regional programs specialists. The exemptions are handled through district student services directors and go through a central source, not individual school counselors. Cecil suggested that jobs.utah.gov could be more friendly towards youth. Jane responded that this is in process and the ability to do a key word search for "youth" will be coming up May 1.

The Bear River leadership project will take place April 28. They are sending care packages to active service members of military. They partnered with two city youth councils. There will also be speakers: Vietnam vet, and a vet on work-study who returned from Iraq. They also have a new

employer on the youth council – Convergys. They provide benefits and tuition reimbursement for part-time employees, which is very supportive to youth.

### **Western**

Two DWS staff have been assigned as youth workers. They have been doing outreach with Chambers of Commerce and LICs, which will be ongoing through May. They are also trying to recruit businesses with internships. Several leadership projects are scheduled for May and June. Among them, a “reality store,” where several businesses will be setting up booths. This activity will not be limited to current WIA participants. Youth will be given real-life scenarios which will include education levels and a budget with assignment to provide housing, food, etc.

### **EMPLOYER HIGHLIGHT**

Wayne Clausong of Sutherlands presented. He indicated that he started with the youth program at age 14 and feels that experience contributed significantly to his success. He is a strong believer in services and their benefit to youth as well as business. This will be Sutherland’s third summer participating with Eastern Region to serve as a work-site for about 6 or 7 youth per year. During this time they have retained a couple of youth employees. It helps them break the cycle. In giving youth an opportunity now, they may not get “trapped” later. His experience has been that participants go on to become productive members of society.

### **ADJUSTING SERVICE PRIORITY AND EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENT ON OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH**

DOL has asked DWS to serve Native American youth, youth with disabilities and at a higher level. The way we do this is to assign priority points. To assure that we are serving youth at risk, Jane is recommending that we add a few categories and delete a few others. The packet contains definitions for current and proposed. Among the recommendations:

- There is no longer a need to distinguish between older and younger youth.
- There is also no point in having income criteria in the point system because low-income is already a criteria for eligibility.
- Add Native American youth
- Change to disabled (more efficient) from chronic
- Also want to add refugee youth. It is not required that we give a high point value, which may vary by region.

Ann cautioned about removing age restriction. Older youth are more likely to reach outcomes quicker. Out-of-school youth already receive priority points, which can be adjusted.

Norman Johnson move that the recommendations be accepted. Melissa Freigang seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition. This will go into effect July 1. **ACTION:** Youth Councils will need to assign point values on the new form, which Jane will provide on her return to the office.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nothing additional noted.

## **NEXT MEETING**

July 12, 2007